ground water development; and

(iv) providing facilities for research and training.

Decentralisation of Plan Formation in the Industrial Sector

*306. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to decentralise the very process of plan formation, particularly in the industrial sector;

(b) if so, what are the suggestions made by the experts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have examined their suggestions; and

(d) if so, the final decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (d) It is the view of the Government that in areas of development which directly impinge on the living conditions of the majority of the people, the impulses and ideas of development should generate at local levels. As an on-going exercise of enlarging the scope of participation in the planning process at different levels and regions, Government is taking steps to strengthen and systematise multi-level planning—particularly at the District Level in relevant sectors including Small & Village Industries.

For determining the goals and for evolving the strategy and approach for industrial growth in the Eighth Plan, the Planning Commission has already initiated its exercise. Concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, industry associations, State Governments and others are being appropriately associated with this exercise.

The report of the Working Group on District Planning has suggested that to make decentralised planning a success, capabilities for decentralised planning, right procedures, suitable structures, technical, administrative and attitudinal changes have to be brought about. They have also suggested that various initiatives and improvisations should be introduced cautiously, providing adequate time for assimilating them.

Legislation to audit the accounts of political parties

*307. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring forward legislation to audit the accounts of political parties or amend the existing law; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Various proposals for electoral reforms including auditing of accounts of political parties have been made to the Government by the Election Commission.

उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम संबंधी समिति

*310. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश में पहाड़ी क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम संबंधी समिति ने कोई योजना तैयार की है ;